

4 June 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Request from Admiral Frankel for Intelligence Briefing of
Hebert Subcommittee of House Armed Services on Soviet
Civil Defense Fallout Shelters

1. In meeting with Mr. Robert W. Smart, Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, concerning a possible date and time for our regular monthly Committee briefing by the Director, I mentioned the fact that the DOD had made a request that the Agency prepare a briefing on Soviet Civil Defense and Fallout Shelters and present the briefing to the Hebert Subcommittee later this month. Mr. Smart indicated that he saw no reason why the Agency should become involved in the matter: the DOD is perfectly capable of presenting the agreed intelligence findings with regard to Soviet civil defense. It is his recommendation that the Agency not become involved in such matters.

2. In announcing the hearings by the Subcommittee on Department of Defense fallout shelter incentive program, Congressman Hebert stated in part:

Because of the strength of opinion and the dearth of knowledge. . . I am most anxious that these hearings be held in an atmosphere of complete objectivity.

He also stated:

Interest in appearing before the Committee as witnesses has been expressed by some of the best known names of the country. . . . We intend to hear them all.

3. A paper entitled, "Staff Study for Subcommittee No. 3, F. Edward Hebert, Chairman," written by Philip W. Kelleher, Counsel to the Subcommittee, was provided DOD representatives prior to the first session which occurred on Tuesday, May 28th. On the following day, May 29th, in the beginning of that day's session, Mr. Hebert announced to the Committee in part as follows:

The response of Mr. Pittman (yesterday) to the staff study was exactly the kind of thing the Subcommittee is looking for. It is my sincere hope that the same kind of reaction will be forthcoming from the other witnesses. . . .

The study itself indicated its deliberate slant against the program and indicated, I think quite clearly, the reason for this. . . .

The very purpose of presenting these objections is to have them answered. . . .

. . . the staff study does not represent a Committee position. It is intended only as a provocative document and exists for the very purpose of being answered.

4. In conversation with Col. Roger Carter of Army L and L, who is handling the Army phase of the presentations before the Committee, the Colonel advised that the membership of the Subcommittee, other than the Chairman, almost to a man, would like to avoid this present Committee activity. Their mail from constituents is very strong, either in exact opposition, or completely in favor of a fallout shelter program. The comments of the Committee members as the Colonel has related them would indicate that in their individual opinions the present hearings as established will serve little useful purpose.

[Redacted Signature]

Assistant Legislative Counsel

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Attachments

cc: Mr. Houston

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